



Office of the Secretary of State

Department of State
125 West State Street
Trenton, NJ 08625

MEDIA ADVISORY

August 15, 2006

**NEW JERSEY'S ORIGINAL BILL OF RIGHTS MANUSCRIPT
COMING TO PHILADELPHIA ATHENAEUM ON AUGUST 16**
*1789 Charter of Freedom and 1787 N.J. Ratification
of the U.S. Constitution to be Digitized*

PHILADELPHIA, PA – Secretary of State Nina Mitchell Wells has announced that New Jersey's official manuscript of the Bill of Rights and the state's 1787 Ratification of the U.S. Constitution will be scanned at the Athenaeum of Philadelphia on Wednesday, August 16. High-resolution images of these treasured documents from the New Jersey State Archives will be produced on a state-of-the-art scanner in the Athenaeum's Regional Digital Imaging Center. Imaging will make the priceless documents more accessible to researchers and students of New Jersey history, and the general public. Downloadable images of the Bill of Rights and Ratification will be placed in the State Archives' Documentary Treasures web pages, joining the state's three constitutions.

On November 20, 1789, New Jersey became the first state to ratify the Bill of Rights—the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution—guaranteeing the fundamental rights and freedoms of all American citizens. The Garden State was third to ratify the U.S. Constitution, on December 18, 1787.

The Athenaeum's Regional Digital Imaging Center provides archival-quality scanning services for its own collections as well as a diverse clientele of institutions throughout the mid-Atlantic region.

WHO: The Honorable Nina Mitchell Wells, Esq., New Jersey Secretary of State; Karl Niederer, Director, New Jersey State Archives; Bruce Laverty, Curator of Architecture, Athenaeum of Philadelphia

WHAT: Presentation of New Jersey's manuscript of the Bill of Rights and the state's

1787 Ratification of the U.S. Constitution for digital scanning at the Athenaeum
of Philadelphia

WHEN: Wednesday, August 16th, 10:00 a.m.

WHERE:
Athenaeum of Philadelphia
219 South Sixth Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-3794

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